



Town of Wenham

BOARD OF HEALTH

West Nile Virus Confirmed in Mosquitoes from Wenham, MA

DATE: September 13, 2011

**Target Spraying to occur around Wenham DPW Garage Grapevine Road
Tuesday September 13 at 7:30 pm**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) announced that West Nile virus (WNV) has been detected in mosquitoes collected from *Wenham*, Massachusetts. In 2010, 3,558 mosquito samples were tested for WNV in Massachusetts and 121 samples were positive. This is the first mosquito in Wenham to test positive in 2011. The Wenham Board of Health is working closely with the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District. Additional mosquito surveillance traps will be set up in Wenham to determine how wide spread the issue is.

WNV is most commonly transmitted to humans by the bite of a mosquito infected with the virus. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe infection.

By taking a few, common-sense precautions, people can help to protect themselves and their loved ones:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

- **Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours** - The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning. Otherwise, take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing.
- **Clothing Can Help** reduce mosquito bites. Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- **Apply Insect Repellent** when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with **DEET** (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), **permethrin**, **picaridin** (KBR 3023), **IR3535** or **oil of lemon eucalyptus** [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and should not be applied to skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

- **Drain Standing Water** - Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or getting rid of items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently.
- **Install or Repair Screens** - Some mosquitoes like to come indoors. Keep them outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

The Wenham Health Department will continue to work closely with the MDPH and other agencies. We will keep any updates, including spraying dates and locations on the Board of Health Website at www.wenhamma.gov.

Information about WNV and reports of WNV activity in Massachusetts during 2010 can be found on the MDPH website at <http://www.mass.gov/dph/wnv>. Recorded information about WNV is also available by calling the MDPH Public Health Information Line at 1-866-MASS-WNV (1-866-627-7968).